

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MOGADI 00641 232303Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W
-----111486 232307Z /70
Z O 232206Z MAR 78 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 0000
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T MOGADISCIO 0641

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, SO, US, MASS

SUBJECT: DISCUSSIONS WITH SOMALIS AND SAUDIS

REF: A.) STATE 075244 B.) MOGADISCIO ,629

1. ALTHOUGH I AGREE SIAD'S LETTER TO THE SPECIAL EMISSARY RECEIVED THIS MORNING (REFTEL B) IS AMBIGUOUS AND REPRESENTS AN ATTEMPT TO PRESERVE SOME FLEXIBILITY BY THE GSDR, THE LETTER IS STILL A MAJOR STEP IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. MY REACTION IS THAT WE SHOULD NOT IMMEDIATELY SEEK A MORE PRECISE COMMITMENT OR CLARIFICATION OF HIS LETTER. IN MY VIEW THE BEST CHANCE FOR SUCCESS IS TO TIE THE MORE PRECISE COMMITMENT WE WANT FOR AN OFFER OF EQUIPMENT THAT HE WANTS. I RECOGNIZE THERE IS SOME CART-AND-HORSE LOGIC IN THIS APPROACH, BUT I THINK IT IS THE ONLY WAY BOTH PARTIES CAN FIND AGREEMENT. IN THE INTERIM, THE AMBIGUITY OF THE LETTER CAN SERVE OUR PURPOSES AS WELL AS HIS AS LONG AS OUR INTENT IS TO PUSH FOR A BETTER RELATIONSHIP.

2. I DO NOT BELIEVE THE MECHANICS OF HOW WE IMPROVE THE PRECISION OF THE COMMITMENT IS IMPORTANT SO LONG AS SIAD REGARDS THE OUTCOME AS SUPPORTING HIS OBJECTIVE. AS I HAVE OFTEN STRESSED, HE THINKS

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IN A DIFFERENT FRAMEWORK THAN WE DO. WHAT WE MIGHT REGARD AS AN OPTIMUM LEGAL PACKAGE SIMPLY DOES NOT HAVE THE SAME APPEAL FOR HIM.

3. I BELIEVE THE INCLUSION OF LETHAL ITEMS IN THE IMMEDIATE PACKAGE WOULD HELP, BUT I DON'T BELIEVE HE IS VERY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE NON-LETHAL ITEMS AT ALL.
I BELIEVE AS I HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED, THAT HE IS

INTERESTED FIRST AND FOREMOST IN THE VISIBLE HARDWARE HE NEEDS TO DEMONSTRATE TO HIS ARMY AND HIS PEOPLE THAT THE GSDR CAN STILL BUILD A DEFENSIVE CAPABILITY WITHOUT ACCESS TO SOVIET ARMS.

4. UNFORTUNATELY WE HAVE NOT HAD MUCH TIME FOR REFLECTION HERE, NOR HAVE THE SOMALI PARTICIPANTS WITH WHOM I MIGHT USEFULLY DO SOME ADDITIONAL PROBING. EVERYONE WHO HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN OUR LARGELY NOCTURNAL SESSIONS NEEDS A NIGHT OF SLEEP TO CLARIFY HIS THOUGHT PROCESSES. AS SOON AS THIS IDEAL HAS BEEN ATTAINED I WILL ATTEMPT TO GET A BETTER READING ON THE SOMALI ASSESSMENT OF THE PAST FIVE DAYS OF NEGOTIATIONS, AND REPORT FURTHER.

LOUGHRAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOGADI00641
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780129-0276
Format: TEL
From: MOGADISCIO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780332/aaaabbce.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: dabfd7be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 STATE 75244
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3226570
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISCUSSIONS WITH SOMALIS AND SAUDIS
TAGS: PGOV, MASS, SO, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dabfd7be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014